

Remarks

In the Office Communication dated November 20, 2006, the Examiner asserts that the Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 filed August 21, 2006, was not fully responsive to the prior Office Action on the ground that Applicants had not properly replied to the obviousness-type double patenting rejection. Specifically, the Examiner indicated that Applicants' request to hold the rejection in abeyance until allowable subject matter was agreed upon was insufficient since the rejection was not a provisional double-patenting rejection.

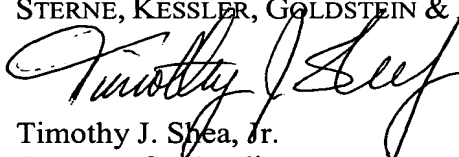
Without acquiescing in the propriety of the rejection, and solely in the interests of expediting prosecution, Applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer to Obviate a Double Patenting Rejection over a Prior Patent. The terminal disclaimer disclaims the terminal part of the statutory term of any patent granted on the instant application which would extend beyond the expiration date of the full statutory term of U.S. Pat. No. 6,602,684. In view of the submission of the Terminal Disclaimer, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection for obviousness-type double patenting has been obviated, and may be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicants believe the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

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